THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Only two cases have been received for All India shift to Delhi from Meghalaya during last six months.

(b) The cases mentioned in part (a) have been disposed of and telephone connections have been opened.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Garuda and Dolphin mobile phones

2218. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Garuda and Dolphin mobile phones are not supplied to the consumers in time by the officers of MTNL inspite of heavy demand from the people;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in supply many of the consumers are going to other private cellular companies; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Garuda telephones were given to the consumers immediately after commissioning of the equipment with the result that available capacity in both Delhi and Mumbai has been fully utilized.

Dolphin mobile connections are being provided in Delhi and Mumbai on demand. As per MTNL policy the consumers are required to purchase mobile handset on their own.

(b) There are various reasons due to which a subscriber opts for a cellular mobile operator and it is applicable to all operators including MTNL.

(c) Garuda service is being expanded both in Delhi and Mumbai to provide the connections without delay. Similarly, Dolphin system, is being expanded both in Delhi and Mumbai to meet future demands.